

**In the Claims:**

This listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the Application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended) A single pass compression method for regulating compression of serialized input data as a function of a measure of said compression method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a step of:
  - a) converting a source ~~data image~~ into a series of blocks, said series including a first block, an intermediate block ~~blocks~~, and a last block;  
~~wherein, said regulating includes~~
  - b) determining a baseline target block size based upon a target compression ratio for said source data;
  - c) for each block in turn, determining a current target block size, the current target block size for said first block being said baseline target block size, the current target block size for said intermediate block ~~blocks~~ and said last block ~~blocks~~ being equal to the said current baseline target block size plus an accumulating savings associated with the preceding block in said series;
  - d) for each block in turn, selecting a compression mode ~~guaranteed~~ to compress that block so that the resulting compressed block fits its corresponding target block size as determined in step c; and
  - e) for each block in turn, ~~compress~~ compressing the block using the compression mode selected in step d to yield a corresponding compressed block;
3. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 2 19 wherein step f ~~involves~~ comprises determining the size of the compressed block resulting from step e and determining said savings in part as a function of said size.

4. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein step d ~~involves~~ comprises analyzing the content of the block and selecting said compression mode in part as a function of results of that analysis.

5. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 4 wherein said mode is selected from mode families, said mode families including an n-color mode family including lossless n-color compression modes, and a BTC-VQ mode family including ~~lossy~~ lossy BTC-VQ compression modes.

6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5 wherein each block with fewer than a predetermined number of distinct colors is assigned to said n-color family.

7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said families further include a raw mode family including at least a degenerate raw compression mode in which the current block is transmitted uncompressed.

8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said families further include an interpolated mode family including plural interpolation modes.

9. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said source image is a compound document.

10. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein said function is greedy with respect to a target block size.

11. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ A single pass image compression system comprising:  
     an encoder for sequentially compressing for sequentially compressing a series of ~~source-image~~ source blocks, said encoder implementing plural compression modes with respective predetermined maximum compressed block sizes;  
     a mode selector coupled to said encoder for selecting one of said compression modes

for compressing a given ~~one of said source-image blocks~~ source block, said mode selector selecting ~~one of said a compression modes~~ mode at least in part as a function of a target block size for a current ~~source-image~~ source block; and

an evaluator for determining the target block size for each of said ~~source-image~~ source blocks; and

an allocator for determining a baseline target block size based upon a target compression ratio for said series of source blocks.

12. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 11 wherein said evaluator includes a block-size reader for determining the block size of a compressed block resulting from compressing of a respective ~~source-image~~ source block, said evaluator determining said target block size in part as a function of the size of said compressed block.

13. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said mode selector selects a compression mode for a current ~~image~~ block in part as a function of its content.

14. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 13 wherein said mode selector ~~includes~~ assigns some of said ~~source-image~~ source blocks to an n-color mode family of n-color compression modes and other ~~source-image~~ source blocks to a BTC-VQ mode family of BTC-VQ compression modes.

15. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 14 wherein said mode selector assigns some of said ~~source-image~~ source blocks to a raw mode family of modes including an uncompressed raw mode.

16. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said raw mode family also includes truncated raw modes.

17. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 16 wherein said mode selector assigns some of said ~~source-image~~ source blocks to a family of interpolated compression modes.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (New) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:

f) for each of said first and intermediate blocks in turn, determining said accumulated savings as a function of the size of the compressed block resulting from step e.